

**From:** [Tricia Pfeiffer](#)  
**To:** [Kyle Olson](#); [Johanna Miller](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: RE: Methane Complaint 5/4/2012 by Schilke  
**Date:** 05/09/2012 08:48 PM

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FYI

Tricia Rios Pfeiffer, Engineer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region8  
Watershed & Aquifer Protection Unit  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
MC: EP-EPR  
Denver, Colorado 80202

P: 303-312-6271  
P: 866-457-2690 ext 312-6271  
F: 303-312-7206

-----Forwarded by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US on 05/09/2012 08:48PM -----

=====  
To: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, "Dihle, Mark A." <mdihle@nd.gov>  
From: "Semerad, Jim L." <jsemerad@nd.gov>  
Date: 05/09/2012 07:09PM  
Cc: Kristen Keteles/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Alexis North/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, "Dihle, Mark A." <mdihle@nd.gov>, "Peterson, Todd F." <tfpeterson@nd.gov>, "O'Clair, Terry L." <toclair@nd.gov>  
Subject: RE: Methane Complaint 5/4/2012 by Schilke  
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Tricia:

You are correct that this latest email references methane specifically. However, please note that Jacki has had a long list of concerns with air, water, and soil. Specific air issues have included H2S, ammonia, arsenic, germanium, chlorine, and methane. Note that many of these pollutants are highly pungent. To date we have found no problems both with industry operations and with general testing/inspection results. Further, we have talked to several people in the area and to the veterinarians treating animals in the entire western part of the state. Again, no problems have been noted. We have informed EPA of our findings relating to numerous calls and inspections.

Jacki has had some air and water testing completed on/near her property. She submitted the results to EPA (not to NDDoH) last spring or summer. Jacki has informed us that the results show problems. We understand that EPA is reviewing the results - we are looking forward to input from EPA but we are unaware of any timetable for the review.

Meanwhile, we will continue to make every effort to ensure that operations are in compliance.

Jim Semerad  
Manager of Permitting and Compliance

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From: Tricia Pfeiffer [Pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 6:38 PM  
To: Dihle, Mark A.  
Cc: Kristen Keteles; Semerad, Jim L.; Alexis North  
Subject: Re: Methane Complaint 5/4/2012 by Schilke

Hey Mark,

Thank you for keeping me in the loop on the follow up that you and others conducted. I specifically work in water, however also handle citizens complaints. Just thinking out loud, Jacki defines her concern in the email as being primarily methane, but given the flaring that is occurring in the area, could there be other by-products or residual from incomplete partial combustion that methane detectors would not detect?

Look forward to hearing from you,  
Tricia

Tricia Rios Pfeiffer, Engineer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region8  
Watershed & Aquifer Protection Unit  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
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-----"Dihle, Mark A." <mdihle@nd.gov> wrote: -----

=====  
To: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Kristen Keteles/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
From: "Dihle, Mark A." <mdihle@nd.gov>  
Date: 05/09/2012 12:48PM  
Cc: "Semerad, Jim L." <jsemerad@nd.gov>, Alexis North/R8/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subject: RE: Methane Complaint 5/4/2012 by Schilke  
=====

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the information that we found regarding the complaint (copy below) by Jacki Schilke on

5-4-12. Emails and a call were sent to the operators when the issue was raised. Key points found:

\* The specific wells outlined in the email were located far downwind of the complainant the day of the email complaint.

\* Oasis (operator) had personnel in the area who responded to the complaint on 5-4-12. No problems were found.

\* NDIC had an inspector in the area who responded on 5-4-12. No problems were found.

\* No gas problem was found (with equipment used to test for methane) by Brigham (operator) on Monday May 7, 2012.

Mark Dihle  
North Dakota Dept. of Health  
918 E. Divide 2nd Floor  
Air Quality  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 328-5188

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From: jacki [jboid@dia.net]  
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 11:45 AM  
To: Semerad, Jim L.  
Cc: pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov<mailto:pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov>  
Subject: methane

Someone needs to monitor the methane and other gas levels coming off the work over rig on the Anvers site and the flowback job in process on the Statoil site across the road from them. The methane is extremely high this morning, I have had a kitten in the house just die from the gas. Past testing on other animals we have had die have showed extreme high levels of methane-high enough to kill a small animal. This needs to be done within hours-asap- there must be at least one of the companies that has a gas monitor available to do this and get these levels under control.

----- Message from "Wollan, Glenn L." <gwollan@nd.gov> on Wed, 9 May 2012 10:33:43 -0500 -----

To: "Dihle, Mark A." <mdihle@nd.gov>  
Subject: RE: Report

Mark,

Our inspector Jessica Gilkey made inspections of the sites referenced in Ms. Schilke's complaint on May 4, 2012. She arrived on the Anvers site about 3PM CDT and visited the Statoil site after her inspection of the Anvers site. These sites are on confidential status so specific inspection notes cannot be released at this time. However, Jessica noted no odors or problems on the sites and found no violations at the time of her inspections.

Glenn Wollan  
Field Supervisor  
NDIC DMR  
Oil & Gas Division  
701.328.8020

From: Dihle, Mark A.  
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2012 1:35 PM  
To: Axtman, John S.  
Subject: Report

Can I get a quick email confirmation/synopsis of Jessica's trip from May 4 when she was over North of Williston responding to Ms. Schilke's complaint? I am bundling the responses to send to EPA. A copy of Oasis and Brigham reports is attached fyi.

Mark Dihle  
North Dakota Dept. of Health  
918 E. Divide 2nd Floor  
Air Quality  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 328-5188

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[attachment(s) 4258\_001.pdf removed by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US]